

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of treating an individual having a severe burn, comprising the step of administering to said individual a pharmacologically effective dose of a beta-adrenergic antagonist.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said beta-adrenergic antagonist is administered intravenously.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said beta-adrenergic antagonist is administered in a dose that decrease heart rate in said individual by about 25%.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said beta-adrenergic antagonist is administered in a dose of from about 0.1 mg/kg of the body weight of the individual to about 10 mg/kg of the body weight of the individual.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said beta-adrenergic antagonist is selected from the group consisting of propranolol, timolol, nadolol, atenolol, metoprolol, esmolol, nipradilol, carvedilol and acebutolol.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said beta-adrenergic antagonist is propranolol.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said propranolol is administered intravenously in a dose of about 1 mg/kg of the body.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said beta-adrenergic antagonist decreases lean mass catabolism in said individual.

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9. A method of treating an individual having a severe burn, comprising the step of administering to said individual a pharmacologically effective dose of propranolol.

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10. The method of claim ⁸9, wherein said propranolol is administered intravenously.

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11. The method of claim ⁸9, wherein said propranolol is administered in a dose that decrease heart rate in said individual by about 25%.

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12. The method of claim ⁸9, wherein said propranolol is administered in a dose of from about 0.1 mg/kg of the body weight of the individual to about 10 mg/kg of the body weight of the individual.

mg/kg of the body weight of the individual to about 10 mg/kg of the body weight of the individual.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein said beta-adrenergic antagonist is selected from the group consisting of propranolol, timolol, nadolol, atenolol, metoprolol, esmolol, nipradilol, carvedilol and acebutolol.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein said beta-adrenergic antagonist is propranolol.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein said propranolol is administered intravenously in a dose of about 1 mg/kg of the body.